

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 131-138, 149, 151, and 152-155 were pending in this application. In this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled without prejudice claims 131-138, 149, 151, and 152-155, and has added new claims 157-173. New claim 157 corresponds generally to the subject matter previously recited in canceled claims 131 and 152. New claims 158 and 166 correspond generally to the subject matter previously recited in canceled claims 149 and 151. New claims 157-173 do not add new matter. Accordingly, claims 157-173 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment.

In the Advisory Action mailed November 18, 2003, the Examiner indicated that the amendments submitted in the Amendment After Final Rejection filed October 29, 2003 would be entered, but that the amended claims would be rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 3,310,309 to Moss ("Moss") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,332,214 to Tucker, Sr. ("Tucker").

To the extent this rejection might still be applied to the claims presently pending, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as described below.

Independent claims 157 and 165, and their corresponding dependent claims, recite a compression fit between the putter head cavity and the striking surface attachment that is not taught or suggested by the applied references. This compression fit is provided by a thermoplastic surface on the putter head, the striking surface attachment, or both, which secures

the striking surface attachment to the putter head. Claim 157 recites a thermoplastic surface of the putter head cavity that compresses to secure the striking surface attachment to the putter head. Claim 165 recites a thermoplastic surface of the striking surface attachment that compresses to secure the striking surface attachment to the putter head. Claims 158 and 166 recite thermoplastic surfaces on both the putter head cavity and the striking surface attachment that compress against each other to secure the striking surface attachment to the putter head. Support for these claims can be found, for example, in the specification at page 20, line 18 to page 21, line 2, at page 21, line 19 to 23, and at page 43, lines 9-22.

Neither Moss nor Tucker discloses this important compression fit. Moss merely teaches the use of a magnet to secure an attachment to the face of a golf club, without the need or mention of any compression fit. Indeed, Moss relies on the magnet alone to affix the attachment to the golf club.

Likewise, Tucker does not teach or suggest a compression fit. Although Tucker shows a support member 11 and elastomer face 9 fitted into a recessed area 24 of a body member 19, Tucker does not disclose that these components are secured together by a compression fit. In fact, Tucker teaches away from such an interpretation by explicitly disclosing the use of screws 21 and 23 to secure the support member 11 to the body member 19. Obviously, for aesthetic purposes, support member 11 has the same general shape as the recessed area 24 – however, this similarity in shape does not suggest the compression fit of the present invention, which is, alone, capable of securing the striking surface attachment to the putter head.

Moreover, neither Moss nor Tucker teach the use of this compression fit in combination with a magnetic bond, as is recited in new claims 159, 161, 162, 167, 169, and 170.

Applicant therefore maintains that neither Tucker nor Moss, nor any of the other applied references, teach or suggest the compression fit between the striking surface attachment and the putter head cavity that is disclosed and claimed in the present application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 157-173 are patentable over the applied references.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims in this case are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

SHAW PITTMAN LLP
1650 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22102
Tel: 703/770-7687

Date: 12.29.03

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD B.C. TUCKER, SR.

By:



Steven P. Arnheim
Registration No. 43,475

AB/SPA/kmh

Customer No. 28970